

Children in Worship



And Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” ☒ Matthew 19:14

At Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools, as Jesus did, we welcome children of all ages as integral members of the body of Christ, and we welcome the sounds and activity that accompany them! There are a number of spaces and activities designed for children to experience and participate in worship according to their needs (see reverse); we trust families to work out the best option(s) for them and their child(ren) on any given day.

We understand that it takes a village to raise a child. A few tips for engaging our families with small children include:

- ☒ Greeting/learning the names of the young children who sit near you in worship.
- ☒ Offering to read or color with one child during worship, especially if another child in the family is especially fussy or upset.
- ☒ Helping preschoolers and elementary-aged kids to navigate the liturgy, locate the hymns, etc. (Children learn to worship by participating!)
- ☒ Inviting kids to serve alongside you in worship, as greeters, ushers, etc.
- ☒ Recognizing that certain conditions or disabilities don't present physically, and some children (and adults) may make noises or act in ways that seem strange or upsetting, but are perfectly normal for their situation.
- ☒ Celebrating that God put the wriggle in children, and that children's "mode of being" in worship is intrinsically more vocal and more physical than that of adults.

BUSY BAGS

Located at the back of the sanctuary, these bags contain crayons, coloring pages and other items to keep little hands occupied. Books are also on the busy bag stands.

THE PRAY-GROUND

This space in the front of the sanctuary is intended especially for families with toddlers and young children, recognizing that small kids are often more engaged when they can see what's going on. Small tables and chairs and soft toys help to keep our littlest ones occupied.

FOOTPRINTS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school is an important part of a child's faith formation at Trinity. More information about fall 2021 offerings is forthcoming.

INFANT CARE ROOM AND CHAPEL

While the sounds that children make are most welcome in the sanctuary, we recognize that concerns about disturbing others can hinder a parents' ability to focus on worship. The Infant Care Room and chapel—both off the narthex—are great options for vocal kids that still allow you to follow the service. The Infant Care room is for nursing moms or parents of infants who find it as a less distracting place. The chapel allows for more movement space for the active toddler.

NO NURSERY

Trinity chooses to not have a nursery that separates children from their parents. We want to welcome the whole family into worship.



**Trinity Lutheran
Church & Schools**
building. belonging. becoming.